

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /046 W

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R 062020Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 793

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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FOLLOWING RECD FROM RIO DATED 5 AUG BEING REPEATED FOR
YOUR ACTION AND INFO

QUOTE

RIO DE JANEIRO 2473

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BR

SUBJECT: CONGONHAS PROBLEM

REF: RIO 2368

1. CONGEN OFFICERS CALLED ON DAC PLANNING
DIRECTOR, BRIG. VALDIR VASCONCELLOS, TO CLARIFY PRESENT
STATUS DAC POSITION ON PAN AM/CONGONHAS SITUATION.
CONGEN OFFICER POINTED OUT TO VASCONCELLOS THAT
HIS REMARKS AT JULY 25, 1975 MEETING REGARDING VARIG NATIONAL-
IZATION OF SAO PAULO BOUND PASSENGERS AT RIO'S GALEAO
AIRPORT HAD BEEN FULLY REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY AND
THE DEPARTMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, CONGEN HAS BEEN INFORMED
THAT VARIG WAS STUDYING ALTERNATE "SOLUTIONS" TO
CONGONHAS PROBLEM, INCLUDING ALTERATION OF
PORTARIA 74GM-5 PERMITTING FOREIGN AIRLINES TO
CHARTER DOMESTIC FLIGHTS FOR CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS
BETWEEN GALEAO AND CONGONHAS FOR NATIONALIZATION
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AT LATTER AIRPORT. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT NEW PORTARIA

HAD NOW BEEN ISSUED. THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER NEW PORTARIA AND NATIONALIZATION AT GALEAO WERE INCLUSIVE OR EXCLUSIVE POSSIBILITIES.

2. BRIG. VASCONCELLOS CONFIRMED THAT THE DAC HAS RESCINDED REPEAT RESCINDED JULY 25 ORDER TO VARIG TO NATIONALIZE SAO PAULO PASSENGER AT GALEAO. ACCORDING TO BRIG. VASCONCELLOS, AIR MINISTER DECIDED THAT CHANGE IN PORTARIA 74GM-5 WAS SUFFICIENT TO INSURE COMITY BETWEEN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AIRLINES OPERATING IN SAO PAULO MARKET. BRIG. VASCONCELLOS STATED THAT CONGESTION AT GALEAO'S INTERNATIONAL FACILITIES AND TWO MILE SEPARATION OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS ALSO PLAYED ROLE IN AIR MINISTER'S DECISION. HE SHRUGGED OFF AS INCONSEQUENTIAL ANY INCREASE IN AIR TRAFFIC AT CONGONHAS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS FROM GALEAO IF FOREIGN AIRLINES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CHARTERING PROVISION. IN FACT, BRIG. VASCONCELLOS STATED THAT CONGONHAS HAS NEW INTERNATIONAL WING AND CAN HANDLE INCREASE IN PASSENGERS EASILY.

3. COMMENTS: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ONE OF DAC'S STRONGEST ARGUMENTS IN DENYING PAN AM CHANGE OF GAUGE TO OPERATE IN AND OUT OF CONGONHAS HAS BEEN AIR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND PRECARIOUS SAFETY SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE WORSENER BY ALLOWING ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO LAND THERE. IT APPEARS FROM BRIG. VASCONCELLOS REMARKS THAT VARIG HAD SUFFICIENT CLOUT AT AIR MINISTRY LEVEL TO OVERTURN DAC ORDER. VARIG CLEARLY WISHES TO AVOID NATIONALIZATION AT GALEAO IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND GOB HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO FOLLOW COMPANY'S SUGGESTION. APPARENTLY, GOB HOPES THAT OFFER OF DOMESTIC CHARTER OPERATION TO FOREIGN AIRLINES WILL EITHER SATISFY PANAM OR MEET BRAZIL'S COMMITMENT UNDER BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT. DECONTROL-DECLASSIFY - 5/1/76. DEXTER UNQUOTE CRIMMINS

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